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(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	09/942,236
Filing Date	August 29, 2001
First Named Inventor	Hillstead, et al.
Group Art Unit	3739
Examiner Name	Not yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	HILL 100

Total Number of Pages in This Submission *

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
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<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
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<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	- Return Receipt Postcard
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application	Remarks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	*10 Pages plus 21 Patent References.	

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Label No. EL845497689US**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT**

Firm or Individual name	Cook, Alex, McFarron, Manzo, Cummings & Mehler, Ltd. Gary W. McFarron, Esq. (Reg. No. 27, 357)
Signature	<i>Gary W. McFarron</i>
Date	March 1, 2002

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Attorney Docket No. HILL 100

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In Re Application of:
Richard A. Hillstead, et al.
Serial No.: 09/942,236
Filed: August 29, 2001
Group Art No.: 3739
Examiner: Not yet Assigned
For: MEDICAL INSTRUMENT

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NAME Jeannie Rapstad

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Jeannie Rapstad

Commissioner for Patents
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Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, as revised on February 4, 1992, 1135 OG 23-24, Applicant hereby calls the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the attached form, which documents may be material to the examination of this application. A copy of each document is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

No inference should be drawn that any apparatus or method disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention.

The citation of these documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence. Citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that any subject matter disclosed in the document is necessarily within the inventive field of endeavor, that any disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that any disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention.

Applicant also respectfully reserves the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosure of the documents discussed herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.


This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months from the filing date or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Accordingly, it is believed that no fee under 37 CFR 1.97(c) is required. If it is determined that a fee is required for this Information Disclosure Statement,

please charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039. (A duplicate of this document is enclosed.)

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 1, 2002

By:


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Registration No. 27,357
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Attorneys for Applicants



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:)
Richard A. Hillstead, et al.)
Serial No.: 09/942,236)
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2. Information Disclosure Statement (in duplicate, 6 sheets total;
3. PTO/SB/08A (2 sheets);
4. 21 Patent References;
5. Certificate of Mailing (1 sheet); and
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Jeannie Rapstad

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